

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

/076 W

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R 220637Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9491

USDOC WASHDC

USDA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, BU

SUBJECT: CONTINUING THREAT OF DROUGHT

1. THREAT OF DROUGHT CONTINUES TO PLAGUE PROSPECTS FOR BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE IN CURRENT SEASON, AND IS SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE OFFICIAL CONCERN. AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORTS APPEAR PERIODICALLY IN PRESS AND ON TELEVISION.

2. IT IS OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PRECIPITATION DURING FALL AND WINTER WAS CONSIDERABLY BELOW NORMAL AND THAT RAINS THIS SPRING HAVE ONLY TEMPORARILY RELIEVED SITUATION. LATEST REPORT, FOR SECOND 10 DAYS IN APRIL, SAYS PRECIPITATION DURING PERIOD WAS NEGLIGIBLE AND ONLY IMPROVED HUMIDITY OF
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ATMOSPHERE.

3. REPORTS ON PROSPECTS FOR AGRICULTURE SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY RANGING FROM "FAVORABLE" TO "ALARMING".

EXAMPLE OF LATTER IS REPORT ON PLODIV OKRUG, ONE OF MAJOR AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN BULGARIA, WHICH APPEARED IN BCP ORGAN RABOTNICHESKO DELO: "THE DROUGHT ...BECOMES INCREASINGLY ALARMING. THE MOISTURE IN THE SOIL IS QUITE INSUFFICIENT. THE YIELD OF THE RIVERS AND THE DRILLED WELLS IS DECREASING RAPIDLY".

4. APPEARS THAT SHORTAGE OF IRRIGATION WATER AND SOIL MOISTURE HAS NOT YET SERIOUSLY Affected CROPS BUT THAT DAMAGE CAN BE EXPECTED. SUFFICIENT RAIN THROUGH REMAINDER OF APRIL AND IN MAY COULD STILL HELP SUBSTANTIALLY, BUT PROSPECTS ARE DIMINISHING.

5. AGRICULTURAL MANAGERS AND WORKERS ARE BEING CONTINUALLY HARANGUED BY PRESS TO TAKE MEASURES TO COUNTERACT LACK OF MOISTURE, INCLUDING PROPER PREPARATION OF SOIL AND REPAIR AND COMPLETION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS. OPENNESS ABOUT DANGER OF DROUGHT IS PROBABLY EVIDENCE THAT THE SITUATION IS SO BAD IT CANNOT BE IGNORED BUT IS ALSO TOOL IN ATTEMPT TO MOBILIZE AND ENERGIZE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

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Message Attributes

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